

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the **FULL COUNCIL MEETING** of the
BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROTHER DISTRICT**
COUNCIL TOWN HALL, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.
on **Wednesday 11th January 2023**

PRESENT:

Cllr Plim (Mayor); Cllr Baldry (Deputy Mayor); Cllr Brailsford; Cllr Carroll; Cllr Clasby; Cllr Drayson; Cllr Fenner; Cllr Harding; Cllr Izzard; Cllr Stanger; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Taylor-Gee; Cllr Winter; Cllr Norris; Cllr Gibson; Cllr Wray; Cllr Rustem.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: J Miller, Clerk. 14 members of the public

00563. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public asked

- a) Is the council aware that in the Rother District Council budget for 2023 that Special Expenses is showing as zero?

The full details of the Rother District Council budget consultation for 2023/24 is shown on their website for public viewing. Members can view these documents online and will consider a response to the consultation at the next meeting. Each authority sets its budget independently.

- b) Has the council challenged the budget figures given by Rother District Council for toilet maintenance?

The Asset Transfer Committee has discussed and challenged the figures at length with Rother District Council officers at various meetings.

- c) Have you considered the legal cost for a lease, with 14 toilets this could be in the region of £20,000.

There will be one standard lease for all 14 WCs therefore the costs are not expected to be significant for this type of legal transaction, most likely around £2000.

A member of the public asked

- d) What date in February the premises will open?

The council hopes to open to the public on 7th February 2023.

A member of the public asked

- e) Why is the council considering a celebrity should open the premises and what will it cost?

The Community Committee felt that it would be a positive experience for the town to be visited by a local celebrity. At present, there is no cost for this.

- f) Will the recording of the last F&GP meeting will it ever be published

The council is testing the sound quality before commencing audio recording and live streaming. Meetings that have been recorded up until now are not of a quality that would suit publishing, as they are recorded only in part and the recordings have solely been used as a test.

g) Is live streaming ever going to happen, all the kit has been handed over.
Once testing is complete and quality is sufficient, live streaming will commence.

- h) What can a climate officer bring to the council that has not been raised by Rother District Council or East Sussex County Council?
The council has not yet agreed a job description or person specification for the role therefore there is no further information we can provide about the job role until the council decides what the responsibilities the position will involve, if it is decided at all. At present, it has been decided to set aside a reserve should the role be created.
- i) How many councillors have experience in leasing toilets and hope that the town council employs a solicitor experienced in this field
Town Councillors are not expected to possess the knowledge, skills or experience that are required for all aspects of the council's work. If councillors find themselves unable to make informed decisions because they lack the information or understanding, they have the power to appoint experts or professional advisers to assist. The Council's solicitor will be engaged to provide advice on the WC lease.
- j) Will there be a separate lease for each toilet?
There will likely be one lease with each WC identified within the document.
- k) Have the toilets attached to other buildings been thought about?
This has been discussed by the Asset Transfer Committee with Rother District Council officers at various meetings.

A member of the public asked

- l) With the coronation of His Majesty in May, will the council support street parties and enable the waiving of the traditional street party fees.
Rother District Council is the authority responsible for temporary road closures for events.

A member of the public asked

- m) If the town council has a view on the realignment to the road outside the town hall?

The Council responded to the consultation with its view and this can be found in the minutes of the meeting of 19th August 2021 on the council's website here: [Minutes 2021-22](#)

00564. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept apologies for absence, with reasons, from Cllr Barfoot.

00565. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cllr Plim declared an interest in the concerning the RAF Association as a member.
Cllr Harding declared an interest in item Support for Ukraine, due to hosting Ukrainians.

Cllr Wray declared an interest in the Asset Transfer item due to working at the Manor Barn.

Cllr Thomas declared an interest in the Asset Transfer item, due to being a member of Rother District Council and advised he would leave the room at this point.

Cllr Winter declared an interest in the item concerning Citizens Advice Bureau, as a trustee and director.

Cllr Drayson declared an interest in the five year strategy as a member of Light Up Bexhill.

Cllr Drayson declared an interest in the Asset Transfer item, due to being a member of Rother District Council and stated that he will not take part in the discussions but will not leave the room.

00566. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 7th December 2022.

00567. COMMITTEES

To receive the minutes and updates of committees held since the last Full Council meeting – all received.

a) Planning and Development Advisory Committee - 07/12/2022

b) Community Committee – 14/12/2022

Cllr Plim confirmed that there were no leaks showing in the noticeboards and that they undergo a regular condition check and that council staff are responsible for updating the information.

c) Planning and Development Advisory Committee - 21/12/2022

d) Finance and General Purposes Committee -21/12/2022

e) Asset Transfer Committee – 04/01/2023

00568. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

a) Finance and General Purposes Committee

i. To receive list of questions and answers from Finance and General Purposes Committee - noted.

Cllr Plim left the room at 19:23pm

Cllr Baldry chaired the meeting for the next item:

ii. To approve grants to the following:

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following grant:

a. Royal Air Force Cadets £1491.82

Cllr Plim re-entered the meeting at 19:25pm and resumed chair of the meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following grants:

b. Wave Arts £1300

c. St Michael's Community Centre £2000

b) Community Committee

- i. To adopt Five-Year Strategy Plan
It was agreed to change the picture of the Bexhill Christmas lights.

It was **RESOLVED** to make the following changes:

Page 1 – improves the town and empowers the people

To replace 'enhance and empowers the people'

To add maximise 'and publicise' to mayoral events

To add in Finalise Climate and Nature Action Plan.... 'and consider fund raising for associated projects'

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Five-Year Strategy Plan.

- ii. To approve Volunteer Archivist Role
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Volunteer Archivist Role.

Cllr Thomas left the meeting at 19:53pm

c) Asset Transfer Committee

- i. That the town council proceeds with lease negotiations for the maintenance of the 14 public toilets.

Cllr Taylor-Gee left the meeting at 19:55pm

Cllr Taylor-Gee re-entered the meeting at 19:56pm

Cllr Taylor-Gee left the meeting at 19:58pm

Cllr Taylor-Gee re-entered the meeting at 20:04pm

Cllr Stanger left the meeting at 20:08pm

Cllr Stanger re-entered the meeting 20:10pm

A recorded vote was called for

After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to hold a vote on the maintenance of the toilets.

FOR: Cllr Plim; Cllr Baldry; Cllr Taylor-Gee; Cllr Winter, Cllr Stanger; Cllr Wray; Cllr Harding; Cllr Rustem; Cllr Gibson; Cllr Fenner

AGAINST: Cllr Brailsford; Cllr Norris; Cllr Carroll; Cllr Clasby

ABSTAIN: Cllr Drayson; Cllr Izzard

It was **RESOLVED** for the clerk to be delegated authority to carry out lease negotiations and report back to Full Council with a final lease no later than the March meeting.

FOR: Cllr Plim; Cllr Baldry; Cllr Taylor-Gee; Cllr Stanger; Cllr Harding; Cllr Wray; Cllr Gibson; Cllr Fenner

AGAINST: Cllr Brailsford; Cllr Norris; Cllr Winter; Cllr Carroll; Cllr Clasby; Cllr Rustem

ABSTAIN: Cllr Izzard; Cllr Drayson

The clerk will circulate the condition surveys to all councillors.

Cllr Thomas re-entered the meeting at 20:36pm

00569. MAYOR'S OFFICE

- a) To receive update on the work of the Town Mayor – noted.

00570. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

External councillors may report for 3 minutes. Written reports must be received three days before the meeting.

- a) To receive reports from Division County Councillors.
A report was received.
- b) To receive reports from Ward District Councillors.
Cllr Bayliss gave a report on the Central Ward.
- c) To receive ward reports from Town Councillors.
A report from Sackville Ward was circulated prior to the meeting.

00571. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a) To agree budget and precept for 2023/24

It was **RESOLVED** to approve a budget of £656,100 and a precept of £651,715.
This equates to a Band D cost of £38.73 per year.

00572. ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LIAISON

- a) To receive any updates on liaison meetings.
There had not been a meeting with RDC since the last meeting.
- b) To receive update from external representatives on Rother District Council High Street Task Force – Cllr Plim and Cllr Taylor-Gee.
There was no further update.

00573. SUSSEX POLICE LIAISON

- a) To note liaison meeting 17/01/2023 at 1pm.
It was noted that the clerk will circulate notes after the meeting.
- b) To note Clerk to investigate CCTV improvement opportunities - noted.
Cllr Brailsford left the meeting at 20:40pm

00574. SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

- a) To receive update from Cllrs Brailsford; Taylor-Gee; Thomas on 'Bexhill Hub for Ukraine Support,'
An update was received.

Cllr Brailsford re-entered the meeting at 20:41pm

00575. EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

To receive reports from external representatives (circulated prior to the meeting)

- a) RALC - Cllr Winter and Cllr Taylor-Gee
- b) Citizen's Advice Bureau – Cllr Gibson
- c) Bexhill Air Cadet Squadron - Mayor
- d) Fairtrade – Cllr Izzard
- e) Old and Bold – Cllr Barfoot
- f) Sea Angling Club Design Workshop – Cllr Gibson

00576. MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) Cllr Izzard
That this council discusses the allegations being made about the council on social media.
This was discussed and it was **AGREED** for a press release to be published regarding the recent code of conduct complaints, following consultation with the HR Sub Committee at its meeting on 13th January 2023.

00577. CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

All information circulated to councillors prior to the meeting

- a) Freedom of Information request for Code of Conduct Reports
It was noted that personal data concerning this request may have been shared outside of the council and this will be reported to the Information Commissioner Officer for investigation.
- b) Provisional local government finance settlement – noted.
- c) Message from PCC Katy Bourne - noted.

00578. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a) To receive answers to questions raised at the last meeting

Cllr Drayson asked for an update at the next meeting on streaming and recording meetings.	The Community Committee is the committee responsible for this initiative, and testing is underway. More information can be found in the minutes of the meetings on our website.
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- a) To receive questions from councillors at the meeting.
Questions shall be recorded in the minutes and responded to at the next meeting or before
Cllr Izzard asked about the flooding by Ravenside and Galley Hill, near entrance to beach which is affecting the nearby businesses. Cllr Izzard will liaise with the District Council in the first instance.
Cllr Thomas asked for Dementia training for all councillors.
Cllr Drayson asked for councillors to not 'reply to all' to reduce the clerk's workload.
- b) To note any future agenda items
There were none.
- c) To consider any new risks to be added to the risk register.
Data breaches will be added to the risk register.

00579. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 8TH FEBRUARY 2023

Meeting closed at 21:14pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Initial.....